GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7556
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
RESERVES OF COAL BED METHANE GAS
A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas called as `Coal-bed Methane` (CBM) proven reservation are placed at about 850 billion cubic metres which is about 40 percent more than the proven reserves of natural gas (petro);

(b) if so, whether foreign companies propose to make a major investment to develop CBM; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c) : The policy approved by Government for exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) provides for global competitive bidding in which Indian as well as foreign companies can bid. The preparation for invitation of bids in accordance with CBM policy has not been completed.

The preliminary studies and R&D activities have indicated availability of CBM reserves in the states of West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The CBM reserve base can be known only after exploration and the commercial viability of such reserves can be established thereafter.

Apart from this, the Government has also approved the exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) by M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limitedin South Raniganj of West Bengal against a FIPB approval. As per the FIPB approval foreigr investment of about US $ 4 million was envisaged in this block.